



News Release

City of Long Beach
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject : Governor Schwarzenegger Announces Nearly \$1 Million for Workforce Investment Board's Green Job Corps

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The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Board (WIB) has been named as one of 11 regional California Green Job Corps pilot programs in the State: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced yesterday that its Network was the recipient of \$935,797 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

Local Green Job Corps partners will match the federal Recovery Act funds with resources, resulting in almost \$2 million in green job training and community service opportunities in the area. The California Green Jobs Corps was initiated by Governor Schwarzenegger to help 1,500 at-risk young California adults realize a brighter future while stimulating the economy and working toward a greener California.

"The WIB is a convener of partners and the Green Job Corps funding is a positive example of the good it can accomplish in that role. Through the convening of caring community partners, the Workforce Investment Board is providing a critical service in the nurturing of a new green economy," said Sandy King, WIB Chair. "It was through the WIB's efforts that key partners collaborated to create the Green Job Corps."

Many entities came together to create the strategies. Among them are the City of Long Beach, Long Beach Community Action Partnership, Long Beach Job Corps Center, Conservation Corps of Long Beach, El Camino Community College, Long Beach City College, Long Beach Unified School District, Yard Farmer and LA County's Growing Experience. The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network is administered by the City of Long Beach, whose City Council will approve receipt of the grant funding.

"I'm delighted to see these Recovery Act funds awarded to Long Beach and our regional partners. These funds will help provide important training to our youth in the emerging green jobs economy," said Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster.

"This innovative use of Recovery Funds for the Network's Green Job Corps Initiative will serve dual purposes: The growth of a regional green job economy and the training of 125 at-risk youth, ages 17 – 24, in green and eco-friendly industries," said Bryan Rogers, WIB Executive Director.

Through the Green Job Corps partnership, career pathways have been developed that focus on solar energy, recycling, green building and construction, water efficient and drought resistant landscaping, and community supported agricultural opportunities.

"We are fortunate to be working with the City's Office of Sustainability, which helps to ground our workforce development strategies to local activities and resources that are on the cutting edge of sustainable practices," said Rogers.

GREEN JOB CORPS FACT SHEET PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

Water Efficient Landscaping/Community-Supported Agriculture

The Community Action Partnership is making an approximately 6,000 sq. ft. property available to the Green Job Corps program for education and training purposes. In-school youth will learn how to create a sustainable garden from a dirt lot. Training partners include California Western Arborists, the Yard Farmer, LB Organic, the Growing Experience (a Los Angeles County entity), and LB City College.

Renewable Energy and Home Energy Assessments/Audits

El Camino College and Long Beach City College will provide instructional programs in Solar Photovoltaic Installation (PV) to Green Jobs Corps participants interested in seeking employment in the emerging renewable energy industry sector. CHEERS (California Home Energy Efficiency Rating Services), a training provider and certification entity for independent rater contractors, will provide eligible youth with the skills required for certification as a Home Energy Rater.

Refuse and Recyclable Materials Collection

The Conservation Corps of Long Beach will train youth in recycling, conservation, landscaping, and maintenance. The City of Long Beach's Environmental Services Bureau will provide site-based learning opportunities at their waste-to-energy plant and recycling plant.

Weatherization

El Camino College and Long Beach City College will provide Green Job Corps participants the opportunity to participate in a 100-hour entry level Weatherization Training leading to qualification to work for the Weatherization Assistance Program, contractors, and other private companies focused on commercial and residential energy efficiency solutions.

OSHA, and Environmental Cleanup and Remediation

Through the Network, Green Job Corps participants will participate in OSHA 30 Certification training that covers topics required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER). Those successfully completing training will receive HAZWOPER 30 Certification. Successful participants in the Asbestos, Lead and Mold Abatement training conducted by providers approved under the provisions of Title 8 CCR341.16 will earn AHERA Asbestos Worker Certification.

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